

## IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN LOS ANGELES (pages 90–93)

## Speaker

The **speaker** in a poem or a story is the voice who is speaking to the reader. The writer uses that character's voice.

A. Read each passage. Identify the character who is speaking.

1. I remember the day Anna was born like it was yesterday. I went to the hospital with a toy for the baby. My daughter lay in bed looking happy and proud. My son-in-law took me to the nursery to see Anna. I loved her from the moment I saw her.

The speaker is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. I have a great life. Every day, I sit on a rock in the pond and warm myself in the sun. When I get hungry, I slide into the water and look for a snack. Whenever I feel afraid, I pull my head, arms, and legs into my shell.

The speaker is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. It's a sunny day, so I know people will visit me. I'll just sit here and wait in the park by the footpath. Mothers will sit on me while they watch their children play. Bird lovers will rest on me while they feed the birds. I'm starting to look a little rundown. I wonder if I will get painted today.

The speaker is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I'm afraid when Mommy turns the lights off. I hope there are no monsters under my bed. What is that sound? Is it coming from my closet? I'm glad that Mommy came back and turned that little light on.

The speaker is \_\_\_\_\_.

- B. Try to remember what it was like to be a young child in your home on a holiday. Write two or three sentences in which the speaker is you when you were about seven years old. Be sure to use the word *I* in your sentences.

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